

January 8, 2007
Seven o'clock P.M.
North Little Rock City Hall Council Chambers
300 Main Street
North Little Rock, Arkansas

The regular meeting of the North Little Rock City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the honorable acting Mayor MURRY WITCHER.

The invocation was given by Alderman Witcher, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by Alderwoman Ross.

The roll having been called, and the following Aldermen answered to their names: NEIL BRYANT, DEBI ROSS, LINDA ROBINSON, OLEN THOMAS, CARY GAINES, JOHN PARKER, and MURRY WITCHER, a quorum was declared (7/0). Alderman CHARLIE HIGHT was absent. City Clerk Diane Whitbey and City Attorney Paul Suskie were also present.

On the motion of Alderwoman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Bryant, and by consent of all members present, the minutes of a regular council meeting and a special call meeting, held on Thursday, December 28, 2006, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (7/0).

At the request of Alderman Gaines, and on the motion of Alderwoman Robinson, which was seconded by Alderman Gaines, communication #3 was read, accepted and filed (7/0).

3. Mayor Hays letter to Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and City Council members re: out of town Monday, January 8, 2007, attending Mayor's Movement on Global Warming meeting in New York City. Alderman Murry Witcher will preside over council meeting.

Acting Mayor Witcher introduced the newest additions to the council, Alderwoman Ross in Ward 1 and Alderman Gaines in Ward 3. Mr. Suskie introduced new assistant City Attorney, Paula Juels Jones, who will begin February 1, 2007. Mrs. Jones currently works in the Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and is a former tennis star in the city.

On the blanket motion of Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson, and by consent of all members present, communications # 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 were accepted and filed (7/0).

1. Chris and Elizabeth Whitford Petition for Speed Hump on Navajo Trail between 6213 and 6209 (20 signatures).
2. Scott A. Miller, PE, President, Argenta Neighborhood Boosters letter to Mayor Hays and City Council re: unanimous support of 7th Street name change to Bishop Lindsey Drive.
4. Jim Harvey, memorandum re: Update on Water Supply and Consumption, (gain in water supply from rainfall, water usage and summary).
5. Sandra Taylor Smith, Director North Little Rock Historic District Commission memorandum to Mayor Hays and City Council re: amendment to local historic district ordinance to expand boundaries to include an area indicated (attached map).

6. Sharon Tedford, multiple emails to Mayor's Office re: support Argenta Historic District expansion (letters from: Boyd and Jennifer Maher, Sonja Miller, Christine Slocomb, Sandra Yates, Jerry Colburn, Don Chambers, Ginger Yates, Rosemary Hamel, Allison and Matthew Klucher, Jennifer Holden, Monty Richard, Scott A. Miller).

Acting Mayor Witcher convened a public hearing at 7:05 p.m. regarding a proposed amendment to the local historic district ordinance to expand boundaries. Alderwoman Robinson said the proposed expansion will improve the area and asked those present who support the same to stand. Mr. Gary Clements, Chairman North Little Rock Historic District Commission and resident of the district spoke in favor of the proposal and referenced a map of the area (red area - current Historic District; blue area - proposed expansion). Mr. Clements discussed incentives including tax credits and grants which may be available to properties located within a historic district. He reviewed the original survey area from 1992. The district would include all of the historical buildings located East, West and South of the railroad tracks. The current area includes approximately 180 structures. The proposal would add approximately 80 - 90 structures. Property values have increased substantially. Over \$250,000.00 in grant money has been received in the area. The proposal did not originate from the commission but from those residing in the area. Ms. Carolyn Hobbs-Moreland-Jones-McQuinn is a fifth generation member of a downtown church. She referenced "facades" and encouraged the council to give back to the people. Ms. Rosemary Hamel lives at 413 West 4th Street. Her daughter, Monty Richard owns property in the Argenta Historic District. Ms. Hamel referenced a house built in 1910 by former Mayor James P. Faucette, which is independently on the National Historic Registry. Ms. Hamel encouraged the council to adopt expanding the district. The downtown area would not have developed to its current state if not for the Historic District Commission. The commission has educated property owners in the area. Alderman Gaines asked if there was any opposition to the expansion. Ms. Hamel said she knew of only one. Mr. Patrick Stair has lived at 411 West 5th Street since 1998. He lived in downtown Little Rock previously, and described the surroundings. He and his wife love the downtown North Little Rock area and support the Historic District Commission and expansion. Areas outside the district will benefit as well. Mr. Scott Miller, President Argenta Neighborhood Boosters said the group supports this proposal. He owns properties in the area. Mr. Miller asked that business owners in the district stand and be recognized. Areas not included in the district effect the area in a negative way. Properties in the area are already in the overlay district. Mr. Suskie advised a public notice ran in the North Little Rock *Times*. Ms. Leslie Middleton has owned her property in the area for 30 years. She is not against the proposal, but asked that her property be excluded and suggested modifying the proposed boundary which could include historic houses in the area. Ms. Middleton said 75% of the block where her property is located is non-historic. She also reviewed legal issues regarding the proposal. Failure to comply with the Historic District ordinance is a misdemeanor violation. Ms. Middleton advised the owners of Horton Brothers Printing are also opposed. Mr. Boyd Maher lives at 5116 Glenmere. He is the Certified Local Government Coordinator for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Mr. Maher strongly supports the preservation of local historic districts as they preserve the overall historic

character of the area. He said the North Little Rock Historic District Commission works with property owners in the area and has approved over 95% of development in the downtown area. Other areas of North Little Rock will soon be evaluated for their historic value, including Baring

Cross, Mid-city, Park Hill and Lakewood. Alderman Bryant asked whether or not the area in question would impact the National Registry if it were excluded and if the property would be under the same rules and regulations as other properties in the area. There being no one else wishing to be heard, acting Mayor Witcher recessed the public hearing at 8:04 p.m., until Monday, January 22, 2007.

Acting Mayor Witcher recessed the council meeting briefly, and reconvened the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

R-07-01 (RESOLUTION NO. 7040 - MAYOR HAYS)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JAMES DIETZ TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK PLANNING COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderwoman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Bryant, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0).

R-07-02 (RESOLUTION NO. 7041 - MAYOR HAYS)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1301 NORTH PINE STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES, PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNER TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Acting Mayor Witcher convened a public hearing. There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. On the motion of Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted. (*owner: Phyllis Crook*)

R-07-03 (RESOLUTION NO. 7042 - MAYOR HAYS)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ARKANSAS BOATHOUSE CLUB; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson. On the motion of Alderman Thomas and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson, the resolution was amended as follows:: *attach Exhibit "B" - Lease Agreement* (7/0). On the motion of Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderman Thomas, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted as amended (7/0).

R-07-04 (RESOLUTION NO. 7043 - MAYOR HAYS)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 817 NORTH "E" STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES, PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNERS TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Acting Mayor Witcher convened a public hearing. There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson. On the motion of Alderman Bryant, and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was amended as follows:: *Section 2 change legal description from Lot 015, Block 010, to LOT 004, BLOCK 024* (7/0). On the motion of

Alderman Thomas and seconded by Alderman Bryant, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted as amended (7/0). (*owner: Lubirder Johnson c/o Thurman Johnson*)

R-07-05 (RESOLUTION NO. 7044 - ALDERMEN THOMAS AND ROBINSON)

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CO-BAR CONTRACTING, INC., NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR., FOR ATKINSON STREET IMPROVEMENTS FROM PLAINS TO SHORT STREET, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$167,471.50, 32ND YEAR (2006) CDBG PROGRAM, was read. On the motion of Alderman Thomas and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson, and by consent of all members present the resolution was adopted (7/0). Alderwoman Robinson was added as a sponsor.

O-07-01

AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING A SPECIAL USE FOR A CONCRETE BATCH PLANT IN AN I-1 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7000 EAST MEADOW LANE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. The ordinance was then held by the sponsor, Alderman Parker and a public hearing was scheduled for January 22, 2007, at 7:05 p.m. The applicant, Mr. Josh Minton spoke briefly about the special use. Alderwoman Robinson asked how a concrete batch plant could benefit the area and if there would be emissions. Mr. Minton said dust would be the only emission.

O-07-02 (ORDINANCE NO. 7907 - ALDERWOMAN ROBINSON AND ALDERMAN THOMAS)

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF EAST 7TH STREET TO BISHOP D. L. LINDSEY AVENUE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion was made by Alderwoman Robinson, and seconded by Alderman Gaines, to suspend the rules place the ordinance on its second reading. On the motion of Alderwoman Robinson, and seconded by Alderman Gaines, and by consent of all members present, the ordinance was amended as follows:: *change name from Bishop D. L. Lindsey Avenue to BISHOP LINDSEY AVENUE* (7/0). On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the rules were suspended and the ordinance was placed on its second reading (7/0). Mr. Roger Johnson lives on North Vine in the Shorter College area and has lived in North Little Rock for over 52 years. Mr. Johnson said he is against renaming streets and opposes this name change. Mr. Johnson said the change would be hard for senior citizens in the area and referenced those living in a high-rise in the area. He referenced the 7th Street School. The ordinance was read a second time as amended. On the motion of Alderwoman Robinson and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and by consent of all members present, the rules were again suspended and the ordinance was placed on its third and final reading (7/0). The ordinance was read a third and final time. Alderman Gaines said Bishop Lindsey has made a lot of contributions to the city. The roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted as amended (7/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (7/0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS-----

Alderman Gaines said he had questions from Ward 3 residents regarding the new electric rate formula and low-income assistance. Mr. Joe Reynolds is opposed to the concrete plant proposed

under 0-07-01. Mr. Miller summarized the position of his association regarding renaming 7th Street. Mr. Rusty Wyrick lives in Park Hill and uses public transit. He said the last bus departs from the Transit Center at 6:00 p.m. Later routes are needed for those who utilize public transportation. Ms. (Inaudible) George uses public transit. Her concerns were the same as Mr. Wyrick's. She and her children use the bus to get to and from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where they take classes. She uses the bus to go to Wal-Mart to buy food for her family. Extended service is needed. She does not lack education, but does not own a car. Mr. Guy Lancaster and his wife have started riding the bus as a convenience. They have less stress in their lives now, and would like to see bus route hours and days extended so they would not have to use their personal vehicle.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson, and by agreement of all members present, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. (7/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, January 22, 2007, at seven o'clock p.m. in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 300 Main Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

APPROVED: MAYOR PATRICK HENRY HAYS

ATTEST: DIANE WHITBEY, CITY CLERK